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VII

THE MADRAS CITY TENANTS' PROTECTION ACT (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"According to Standing Order 37, no speech on the motion to introduce a Bill is necessary unless it is opposed. I have therefore to ascertain whether the motion to introduce this Bill is opposed. (After a pause.) Since no one has opposed the motion, the hon. Member Mr Guruswami may move his motion without any speech."

Mr. L. C. GURUSWAMI:—"Mr. President, Sir, I beg leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Madras City Tenants' Protection Act, 1922."

Mr. R. SRINIVASAN:—"I second it."

The motion was put to the House and carried.

VIII

THE MADRAS DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES AND LOCAL BOARDS ACT (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I wish to know whether this motion is going to be opposed."

*The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"I do not wish to oppose the introduction of the Bill at this stage. I have my objection to raise at the next stage of the Bill."

Mr. VENKATARAMA AYYAR alias PANTULU AYYAR:—"I beg to move that leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920, and the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920."

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"I second it."

The motion was put to the House and carried. Leave was given to introduce the Bill.

IX

MOTIONS ON MATTERS OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST.

CONDUCT OF PROCEEDINGS OF LOCAL BODIES IN THEIR RESPECTIVE VERNACULARS.

Mr. K. RAGHUCHANDRA BALLAL, moved :

"That this Council recommends to the Government that they may be pleased to make proper arrangements to conduct, in the respective vernaculars of the districts concerned, all, the proceedings of district and taluk boards and municipal councils in the Madras Presidency."

In doing so, he said :—

"ಮಾನ್ಯ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರೇ, ಅಯ್ಯಾ—

'ಮದ್ರಾಸ್ ಸಂಸ್ಥಾನದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಡಿಸ್ಟ್ರಿಕ್ಟ್ ಮತ್ತು ತಾಲೂಕು ಬೋರ್ಡುಗಳ - ವ - ಮುನ್ಸಿಪಲ್ ಸಭೆಗಳ ಯಾವತ್ತು ನಡವಳಿಕೆಗಳನ್ನೂ, ಸಂಬಂಧಪಟ್ಟ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳ ಆಯಾ ಯ ದೇಶಭಾಷೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ನಡಿಸಲಕ್ಕೆ ತಕ್ಕ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ದಯವಿಟ್ಟು ಮಾಡಬೇಕಾಗಿ ಈ ಸಭೆಯು ಸರ್ಕಾರದವರಿಗೆ ಫಾರಸು ಮಾಡುತ್ತದೆ.'

"ಇತ್ತೀಚೆಗೆ ಜುನಾವಣೆ ಕ್ರಮಗಳು ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಚಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಗಿ ಬಂದಿರುವುದರಿಂದ ಇಂಗ್ಲಿಷ್ ಭಾಷೆಯು ಸರಿಯಾದ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ದ ಭೂಮಾಲಿಕರು ಮತ್ತು ವರ್ತಕರು - ವ - ಹಿಂದೆ ಒಂದು ಜಾತಿ ವರ್ಗದವರು ಸದರಿ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಸದಸ್ಯರಾಗಿ ಬರುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಇಂತಹವರು ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಸ್ವರಾಜ್ಯ ಸೂತ್ರಗಳನ್ನು ಚೆನ್ನಾಗಿ ತಿಳಿಯಬೇಕಾದರೆ ದೇಶಭಾಷೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ಸಭಾಕಾರ್ಯಗಳನ್ನು ಜರಗಿಸುವುದು ಅತಿ ಅಗತ್ಯ.

[Mr. K. Raghuchandra Ballal] [5th February 1925]

“ಡಿಸ್ಟ್ರಿಕ್ಟ್ - ವೆ . ತಾಲೂಕು ಬೋರ್ಡ್‌ಗಳ ಮೊಬರನಾಗಿ ನಾನು ಅನುಭವಿಸಿದ ಗತ ಕುಮಾರು 8 ವರ್ಷಗಳ ನನ್ನ ಅನುಭವದಲ್ಲಿ ತಕ್ಕಷ್ಟು ಇಂಗ್ಲಿಷ್ ಭಾಷಾ ಪರಿಚಯ ಇಲ್ಲದ ನನಗೆ ಆ ಭಾಷಾ ಪರಿಚಯದ ನನ್ನ ಜತೆ ಮೊಬರರ ಹಂಗಿಗೆ ಈಡಾಗಬೇಕಾದ ಸಂದರ್ಭ ವದಗಿತ್ತು. ಇನ್ನೂ ಕೆಲವರು ಅಂತಹ ಅನಂದರ್ಭಗಳಿಗೆ ವಳಗಾಗದೆ ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳ ಕಾರ್ಯಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಆಸಕ್ತಿ ತೋರಿಸದೆ ಅವರ ಪ್ರಯೋಜನಗಳನ್ನು ಕಾರ್ಯತಃ ತೋರಿಸಲಿಕ್ಕೆ ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾಗಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಇದು ಶೋಚನೀಯವಾದ ವಿಷಯವಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

“ಸದರಿ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳ ನಡವಳಿಕೆಗಳನ್ನು ಇಂಗ್ಲಿಷ್ ಭಾಷೆಯಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ನಡಿಸಬೇಕಾಗಿ ಆಗಲಿ ಯಾವ ಭಾಷೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಡಿಸಬೇಕೆಂತಾಗಲಿ ಲೋಕಲ್ ಬೋರ್ಡ್ ಮತ್ತು ಮುನ್ಸಿಪಲ್ ಕಾನೂನುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ನಿಯಮವಿಲ್ಲ.

“ನಂಮ ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಕನ್ನಡ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಬೋರ್ಡಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಕುಮಾರು ಕಾಲಂಕದಕ್ಕಿಂತ ಜಾಸ್ತಿ ಮೆಂಬರರಿಗೆ ಇಂಗ್ಲಿಷ್ ಭಾಷೆ ಗೊತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ಆದರೆ ಯಾವತ್ತು ಮೊಬರರಿಗೆ ಆ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ದೇಶಭಾಷೆಗಳ ಪೂರ್ಣಜ್ಞಾನವಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಈ ಸದ್ಯವಾಗಲೂ ಇತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿಯೂ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯವಾದವುಗಳಂತೆ ನಾನು ಗ್ರಹಿಸುತ್ತೇನೆ.

“ಕಳೆದ ಜಾಲಾ ತಿಂಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಮಧುರೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸರ್. ಬಿ. ದೇಶಿಕಾಚಾರ್ಯರ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷತೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಜರಗಿದ ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ವಂಗಡದ ಲೋಕಲ್ ಬೋರ್ಡ್‌ಗಳ ಮಹಾಸಭೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಾನು ಈಗ ಮುಂದಿಟ್ಟ ಶರಾವಿನ ಅವಶ್ಯಕತೆ ಕುರಿತು ಪ್ರತ್ಯೇಕ ಒಂದು ಶರಾವು ಮಂಜೂರು ಮಾಡೋಣವಾಗಿದೆ. ಆ ಸಭೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಜರಿದ್ದ ಅನೇಕ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸ್ನೇಹಿತರು ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಈಗ ಇರುವರು. ನಾನು ತಂದ ಶರಾವಿನ ಬಾಬಿನಲ್ಲಿ ವಿವರಗಳು ಇರಲಿಕ್ಕೆ ಅನ್ವದವಿಲ್ಲ. ಅದನ್ನು ಜಾರಿಗೆ ತಂದರೆ ಸರಕಾರಪಕ್ಷಕ್ಕೆ ಆಗಲಿ ಸ್ವರಾಜ್ಯ ಪಕ್ಷಕ್ಕೆ ಆಗಲಿ ಯಾವ ತರಹದ ಅನಾನುಕೂಲತೆ - ಯಾವ ತೊಂದರೆ ಆಗುವರೆ ಕಾರಣ ತೋರುವ ವಿಲ್ಲ.

“ಲೋಕಲ್ ಬೋರ್ಡ್‌ಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಮುನ್ಸಿಪಲ್ ಸಭೆಗಳು ಜನರನ್ನು ಸ್ವರಾಜ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ತರಬೇತು ಮಾಡುವ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳೆಂತ ನನ್ನ ಅಭಿಮತ.

“ಆ ವಿನೆಕಾ, ಸದರಿ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ನಡೆಯುವ ವಿಷಯಗಳು ಮತದಾರರ (ವೋಟರರ) ಪ್ರತಿನಿಧಿಗಳಿಗೆ ತಿಳಿಯಬೇಕಾದ್ದ ರಕ್ತಂತಲೂ ಮತದಾರರಿಗೆ ತಿಳಿಯಬೇಕಾದ್ದ ಅಧಿಕ ಅವಶ್ಯಕ.

“ಮತದಾರರಲ್ಲಿ ಹಲವರು ಇಂಗ್ಲಿಷ್ ಭಾಷಾ ಜ್ಞಾನ ರಹಿತರು. ಈ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಸಂಗತಿಗಳು ಜಿನ್ನಾಗೆ ಆಲೋಚಿಸಿದರೆ ಈ ಬಹುಮಾನವಟ್ಟು ನಿಲಯದ ನನ್ನ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸ್ನೇಹಿತರು ನನ್ನ ಶರಾವಿಗೆ ಪೂರ್ಣ ಅನುಮೋದನೆ ಕೊಡದೆ ಇರಲಾರರೆಂತ ನನಗೆ ತುಂಬಾ ವಿಶ್ವಾಸ ಇದೆ.”

1-15 p.m. Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—“ May I speak in Kanarese, Sir ? ”

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—“ You would require permission from the Chair to speak in any other language except English.”

Mr. A RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—“ I can speak Kanarese, Sir ? ”

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI :—“ May I beg to know if the Government Bench will answer in Kanarese ? ”

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—“ The rule, I think, is that the Chair may permit any Member who is not fluent in English to express himself in the vernacular. Members of the Treasury Bench would have to get permission from the Chair to speak in any vernacular, which permission would be given only on the assurance that they are not fluent in English (laughter).”

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI :—“ May I beg to point out that the hon. the Mover may not understand English ? How would you provide for his knowing or understanding the reply ? ”

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The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" We have got to carry out the rule."

* Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" May I request your permission to speak in Kanarese, so that the Mover may know what I am going to say ? "

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Rule 14 of the Legislative Council Rules says that the business of the Council shall be transacted in English, but any Member who is not fluent in English may address the Council in any recognized vernacular of the province, provided that the President may call on any member to speak in any language in which he is known to be proficient. I presume from the fact that the hon. Member, Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar, offers to speak in Kanarese that he is proficient in that language. Nevertheless for the convenience of the majority of the Members of the Council, I would call upon him to address in English."

* Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" Sir, I beg to second the proposition moved by Mr. Raghuchandra Ballal. I do not think there can be any two opinions as to the advisability of having the proceedings of district boards and municipalities conducted in the local vernaculars. Speaking for my own district, we have some taluk board presidents who know only the vernacular and the present practice of carrying on the correspondence and maintaining the registers and all that kind of thing in English is apt to make some of the presidents tools in the hands of their clerks. To avoid such a contingency it seems to me extremely desirable that the correspondence in the local offices should be conducted in the vernaculars. At the same time I am not quite clear whether under the existing rules the presidents have not got the power to effect this change if they are so minded. If they have that power, then obviously the proposition now before the House would not be needed, because it would be inviting the Government to interfere in local matters which we should be the last to desire. So I formally second the proposition."

* The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" Mr. President, I confess I was not able to follow up the speech of the hon. the Mover but I could understand this much, that he wants that the proceedings of the local bodies should be conducted in the vernaculars of the districts. I am afraid, Sir, that the hon. the Mover is not aware of the fact that as early as 1921 there was a Government Order issued instructing the local bodies that they could conduct their proceedings either in English or in the vernacular of the district. I do not quite see what arrangement my hon. Friend from South Kanara wishes that the Government should make. If it is mere permission to conduct proceedings in vernaculars, Government have already given that permission and to my knowledge most of the local bodies do conduct their proceedings in their vernaculars. Therefore, Sir, I see that there is no necessity for moving this resolution. With this information I suppose my hon. Friend will withdraw his resolution."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" May I ask for some information, as to whether the bill registers for example are printed in diglott so that the presidents who know only the vernaculars may fill up those registers by reference to the vernacular headings in them ? "

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" But I understand that this resolution refers not to headings of registers but to proceedings of local bodies."

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* The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" Under instructions given by the Government they can keep the minutes of proceedings either in English or in their own vernaculars."

Mr. P. L. MOORE :—" Sir, I may, for the information of the Council, read the order to which the hon. the Minister has referred in his speech, so that hon. Members may know exactly what it is. It is G.O. No. 1423, L. & M., dated 23rd July 1921, and runs as follows :

' Proceedings of meetings of local boards and municipal councils may be conducted and the minutes recorded either in English or in the officially recognized vernacular for the local area. An English translation should, however, be appended to each resolution when recorded in the vernacular.

' Correspondence with the Government and with heads of departments in the district and elsewhere must be carried on and the main accounts maintained in English.'

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" Sir, in supporting this resolution I wish to point out what the term 'proper arrangements' means here. It is not merely allowing discretion to the district boards to choose either English or the vernacular, not merely to urge that upon them, but to direct that the language to be used should as a rule be the vernacular of the district."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" May I point out, Sir, that they do conduct their proceedings in the vernaculars of their districts?"

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" I am not quite sure that that is the case in Mangalore. In Kanara, the complaint, so far as I know, is that the proceedings are conducted in English."

Khan Bahadur HAJI ABDULLA HAJI QASIM SAHIB Bahadur :—" The proceedings of the district board and taluk boards are conducted there in Kanarese, and even the agenda papers are written in Kanarese."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" The recording of proceedings?"

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" The proceedings are conducted in English so far as I know. The agenda papers are printed in English so far as I know in the *South Kanara Gazette*. What is wanted is that the proceedings of the meetings should be conducted in the vernaculars and recorded in the vernaculars. The correspondence with other boards should also be conducted in the vernaculars. If there is no such obligation imposed on the district boards and taluk boards now, it should be imposed, I think, by legislation when the Bill is next amended. In Kanara, of course, there may be difficulties on account of the languages being somewhat different. There is a linguistic confusion in South Kanara. There different languages are spoken, but the official vernacular taught in the schools and known by all the people concerned is Kanarese. So what is required is that not only the agenda, etc., but all the proceedings, records and registers should be kept in Kanarese. With these few words, I strongly commend this resolution for the adoption of this Council."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—" I am very sorry I cannot agree with my hon. Friend, Mr. Saldanha, in expressing the opinion that the Government should interfere and make it obligatory on the local bodies to do this thing or that. No one is opposed to the principle embodied in this resolution. Everyone is agreed that as far as possible all the correspondence should be in the vernacular and, as suggested by my hon. Friend from

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Bellary, even the registers and every other thing should be maintained in the vernacular. We are all agreed that this should be done so far as it is possible. But that we should on this occasion take the opportunity to request the Government and ask them to interfere with the ordinary work of local bodies and issue directions to them to do this thing or that thing is, I think, very wrong. For these reasons I suggest that we should, that is, those who are connected with the local bodies should, as far as possible, encourage the conduct of proceedings and maintenance of records and registers in the vernaculars. We accept the principle, but we should not make a recommendation to the Government asking them to interfere with the conduct of affairs in the local bodies. Therefore I would request the hon. Mover to withdraw his resolution."

Mr. B. VENKATARATNAM (in Telugu):—"The Government order regarding the conduct of proceedings in the vernaculars has been read to us. The difficulty comes in the case of correspondence between the Government and the local bodies. The non-English knowing presidents of local bodies have to obtain translations of English correspondence into the vernacular, and the clerks will again have to translate the vernacular replies of the presidents into English. I think that is the meaning of the 'arrangements' said to have been made already by Government. If the Government make arrangements to conduct the proceedings, etc., in the vernacular only, that would be better."

Mr. K. RAGHUCHANDRA BALLAL (in Kanarese):—"I request permission to withdraw my resolution, Sir."

The resolution was by leave withdrawn.

The House then (1-25 p.m.) adjourned for lunch.

After Lunch (2-30 p.m.)

SUPPLY OF MANURE LEAVES TO RYOTS.

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR:—"Mr. President, Sir, I beg to move:

'That this Council recommends to the Government that manure leaves be given free to the ryots from the reserves under the management of village forest panchayats and from the other forests at a seigniorage of six annas per cart-load.'

*"As I understand, Sir, there is to be an amendment to this resolution I shall be brief in my remarks. Mr. President, Sir, in a province where full 80 per cent of the people are helplessly dependent upon agriculture the resolution for which I am responsible does not require any lengthy speech from me to commend itself to the acceptance of this House. Sir, if agriculture is the one staple industry of the country, it goes without saying that next only to irrigation water in importance is manure and it is common knowledge that of the very large variety of manures available to the ryot green manure comes in as the most handy, the most useful and the most indispensable from the ryot's point of view. Moreover, Sir, for ages past the Indian ryot has counted upon the adequate and free supply of green manure leaves as a right to which he is entitled from the Sirkar. Even in